

COPY OF CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claims 1-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (new): A polishing apparatus comprising:

    a polishing platen;

    a polishing pad overlying the polishing platen, the polishing pad having a first polishing region, a second polishing region, and a third polishing region, wherein the second polishing region lies between the first polishing region and the second polishing region;

    a carrier; and

    an alignment detector, wherein the alignment detector is used to align the carrier to the second polishing region of the polishing pad.

Claim 40 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 39, wherein the polishing platen is further characterized as having an alignment knob.

Claim 41 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 39, wherein the alignment detector comprises a laser.

Claim 42 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 39, wherein the alignment detector comprises a video camera.

Claim 43 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 39, wherein the first polishing region has a first hole density, the second polishing region has a second hole density, and the third polishing region has a third hole density.

Claim 44 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 43, wherein the second hole density is greater than the first hole density and the third hole density.

Claim 45 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 39, wherein the first polishing region comprises a first plurality of holes having a first hole depth and a first hole width, the second polishing region comprises a second plurality of holes having a second hole depth and a second hole width, and the third polishing region comprises a third plurality of holes having a third hole depth and a third hole width.

Claim 46 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second hole depth is greater than the first hole depth and the third hole depth.

Claim 47 (new): The polishing apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second hole width is greater than the first hole width and the third hole width.